

10. LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS

*“We have not inherited the earth from our ancestors;
we are borrowing it from our children.”¹⁴*

10-1 Training Facilities and Areas

10-1a Impact Areas

USARAK Regulation 350-2, Chapter 5, describes impact areas on Fort Richardson. There is one major impact area, ERF, composed of 2,165 acres (Figure 4-1). Limitations on the use of this impact area are discussed in Section 3-2a of this INRMP. In addition, the post has temporary impact areas associated with small arms ranges.

10-1b Small Arms and Crew-Served Weapons Ranges

USARAK Regulation 350-2, Table B-1, lists 32 small arms and crew-served ranges on Fort Richardson (Figure 10-1b). These ranges include two demolition ranges (Demo II and Demo III, listed as a single range), that are similar to impact areas. They also include nine mortar firing points (listed as a single range) located throughout the northern training area, and nine artillery firing points (listed as a single range), also throughout the northern training area. The list of ranges includes a skeet and trap range, that is used primarily for recreation.



Small arms complex (foreground).

10-1c Training Facilities

USARAK Regulation 350-2, Table C-1, lists training facilities where live fire is not practiced on Fort Richardson (Figure 10-1c). These facilities include four physical training areas, two drop zones (one with a landing strip), a road march course, ski trails, jump-rappel tower, rail loading site, two bayonet facilities, Squad Obstacle Training Course, rappel/rope bridge site, Nuclear-Biological-Chemical facility, aircraft mock-up site, and a Military Operations in Urban Training site.



Paradrop.

¹⁴ Unknown author.

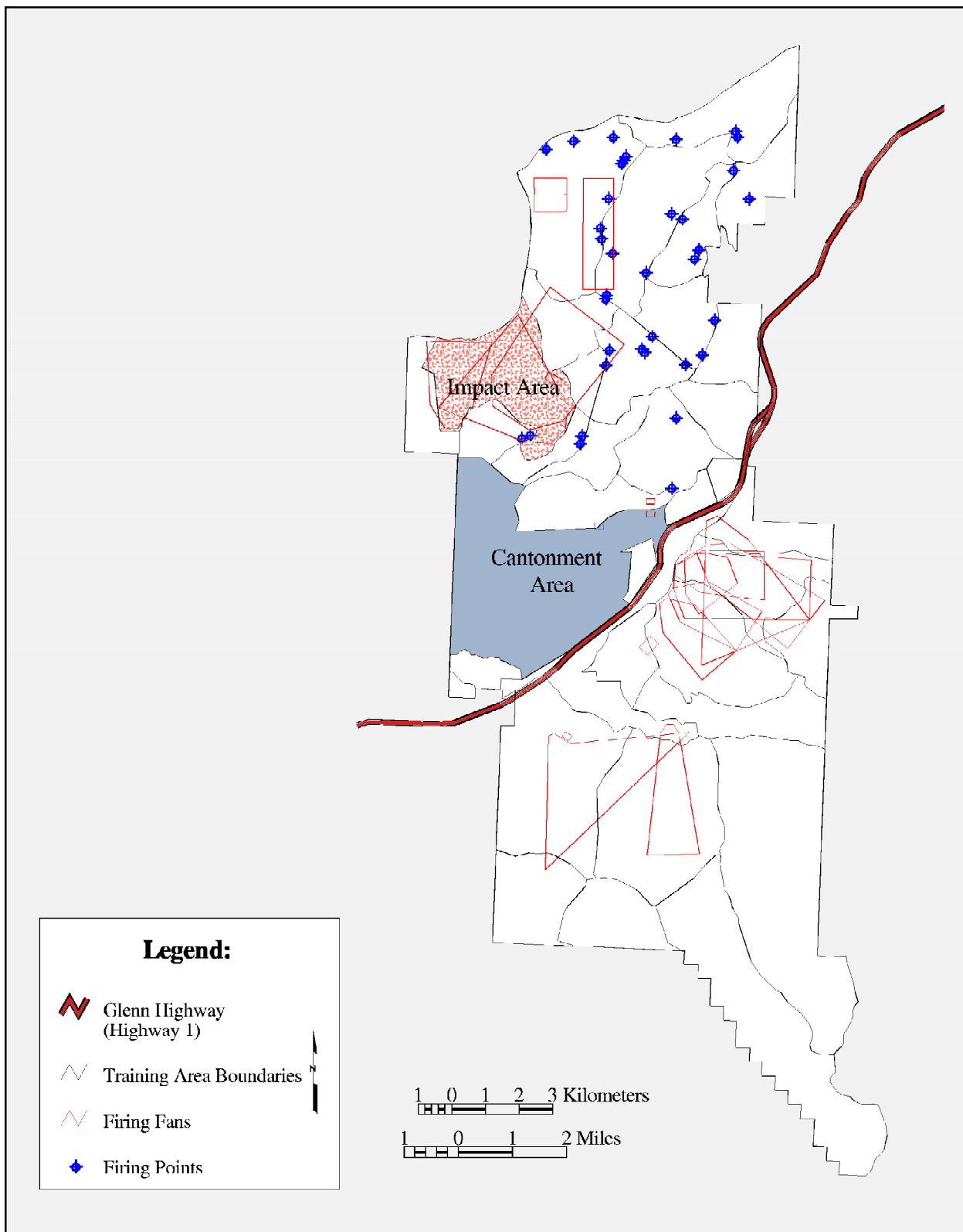


Figure 10-1b. Small Arms and Crew Ranges.

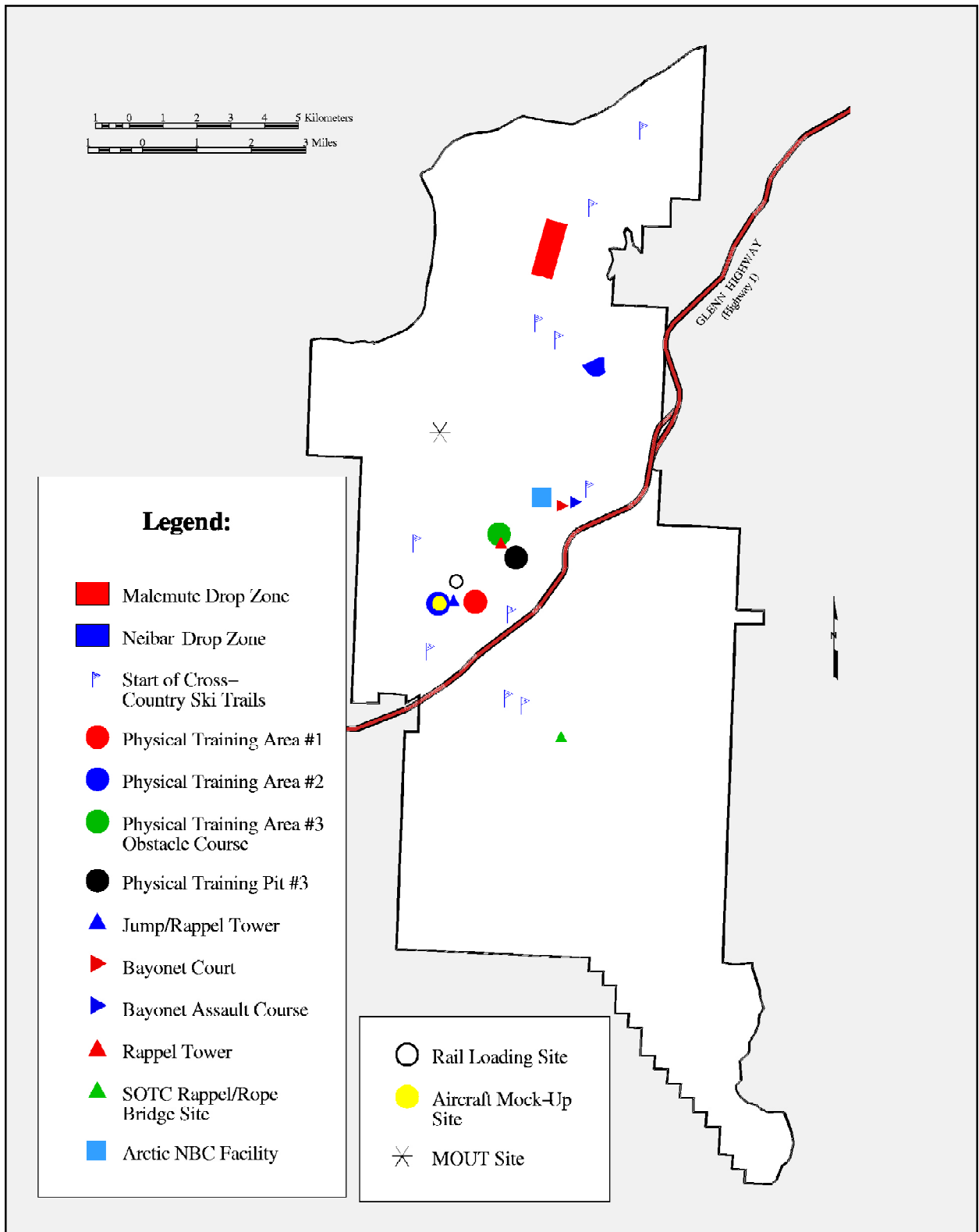


Figure 10-1c. Training Facilities not used for live fire.

10-1d Training Areas

Fort Richardson has 16 major training areas (TA) (Figure 10-1d(1)). TA 16 is used for the Alaska National Guard facility. TA 15 is small and relatively isolated. TAs 1, 2, 6-12, and 14 are subdivided using letter designations, giving Fort Richardson a total of 30 training areas.



Winter bivouac site.

Appendix 10-1d indicates characteristics of each TA, including acreage and a breakdown by vegetation types. Figure 10-1d(1) shows Fort Richardson training areas. Figure 10-1d(2) is a sample map of a training area showing vegetation and other pertinent features.

10-2 Cantonment Area

Fort Richardson's cantonment area is defined (for purposes of this INRMP) as those lands with buildings and facilities, along with their immediately contiguous natural lands. This category includes most areas not part of training or impact areas. It



Fort Richardson cantonment area.

comprises 5,760 acres on Fort Richardson, with 568 buildings, an airfield, and other developed areas. Some grounds are maintained intensively, but many areas are unimproved and provide high-quality wildlife habitat. Figure 10-2 indicates the cantonment area with most buildings. Section 14-13 discusses habitat management within the cantonment area.

10-3 Ecosystem Management Units

Typically, ecosystem management units are defined by boundaries of vegetation communities or watersheds. But, due to the precedence of the military mission at Fort Richardson, management units are defined by training area boundaries (Figure 10-1d(1)). Training areas are long-established units, recognized by most users and managers (military and civilian) of the post. While training areas can include very different ecosystems, this need not impede ecosystem management objectives if this fact is recognized and taken into consideration by natural resources managers.

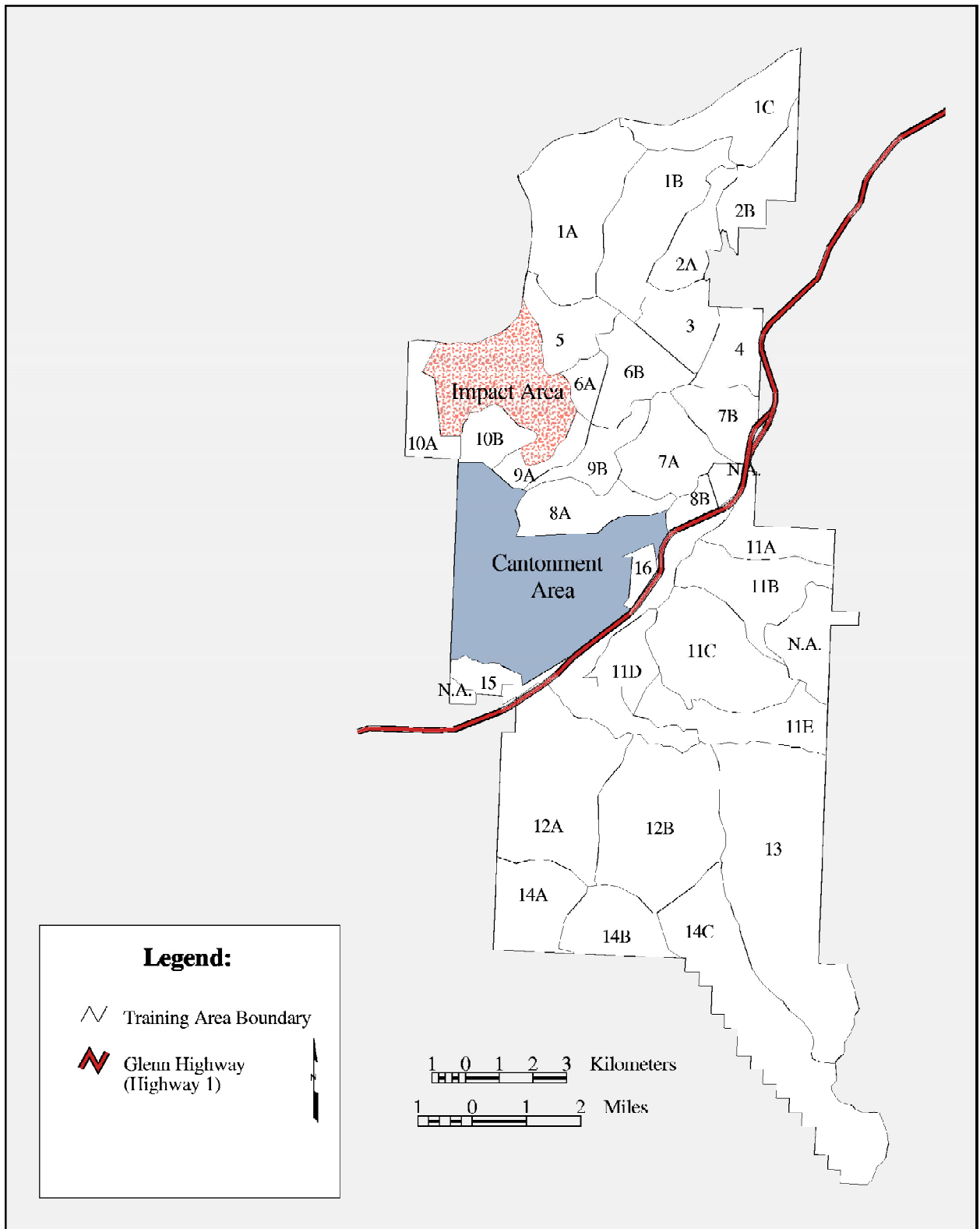


Figure 10-1d(1). Training Areas.

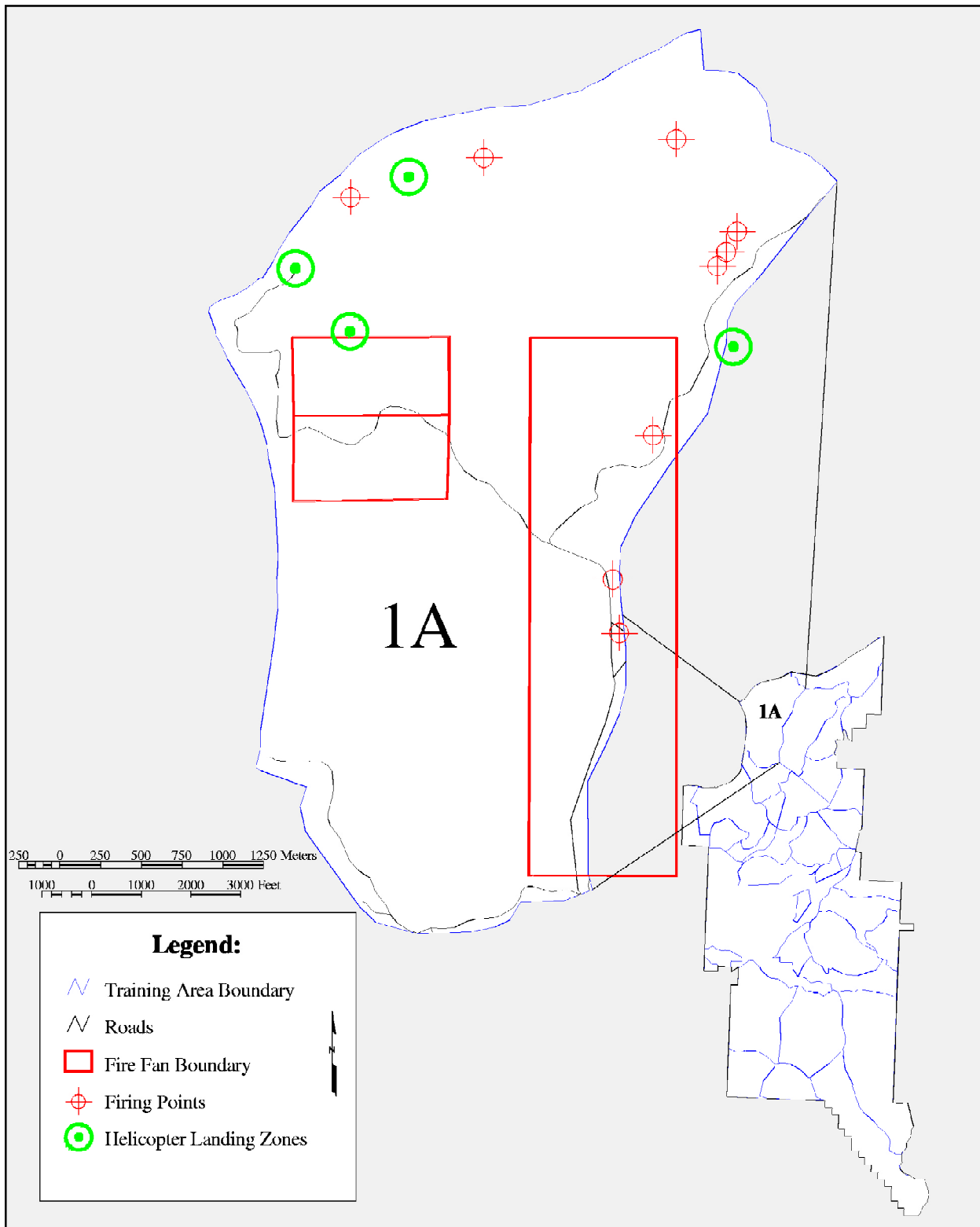


Figure 10-1d(2). Example of a Training Area.

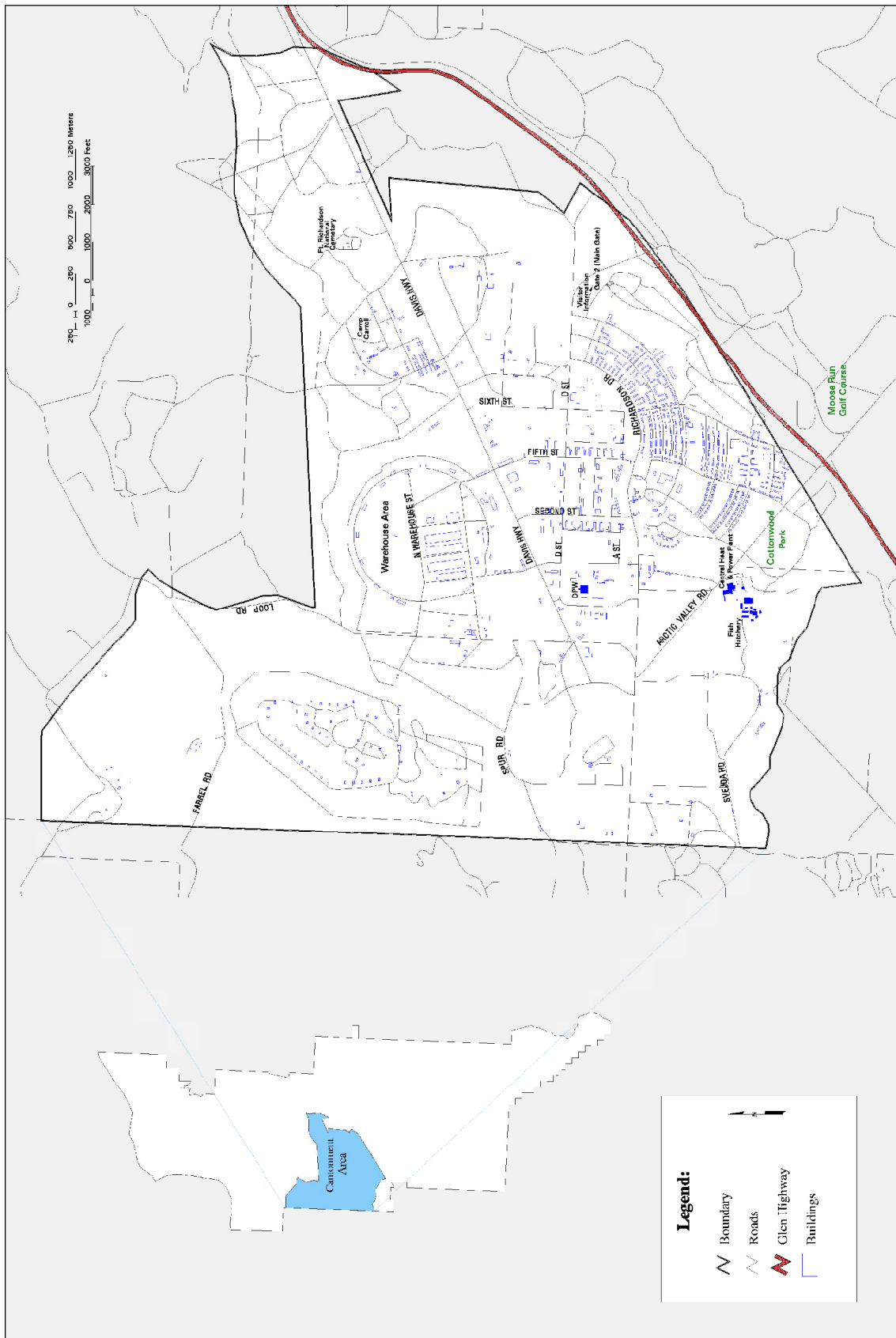


Figure 10-2. Cantonment Area.